(ii) stocking of vaccinces/sera/drugs to the extent possible.

(iii) setting up a special team of doctors for coordinated action. They should be sensitized on the impact of such weapons and treatment measures.

As per the WHO guidelines, the best method of stopping a small pox outbreak if occurs, is search and containment. Vaccination of entire population is not recommended since there is a risk of severe reaction to the vaccine including death.

PET Facility in AIIMS

2134. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how far the efforts to acquire a clinical PET facility in All India Institute of Medical Sciences have progressed;

(b) whether the PET scanner, Medical Cyclotron, target materials and laboratory requirements have been purchased; and

(c) by when the clinical PET facility will be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Technical bid of clinical PET facility has been opened and is in the stage of finalisation. The complete system includes the PET scanner, medical cyclotron, target materials, labroratory requirements etc. The clinical PET facility is likely to be commissioned by March 2003.

Improvement in PHCs

†2135. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for large scale improvement in the functioning of Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the target of providing medical facilities to all cannot be achieved with the present system;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the details of schemes formulated by Government to improve these Centres ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR) :(a) to (d) Government is aware of the deficiencies in the Primary Health Centres in States/UTs. While public health is primarily a State subject in terms of implementation and management, the Central Government is providing technical and financial assistance in all critical areas which affect the programme. States are regularly being advised to take appropriate steps on priority, to address the unmet need. Government have initiated innumerable innovative interventions to expand outreach and coverage so that even the remote areas are adequately served.

Under the State Health Systems Project, Community Health Centres and District Hospitals are being upgraded and better equipped to provide quality health services to people in rural and backward areas.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, specific provisioning has been made towards repairs and renovation of the public health infrastructure, purchasing of drugs and essential consumables, and contingencies.

Area Development Projects are also being implemented with financial assistance from external agencies for strengthening of health and family welfare infrastructure. One of the main activities of Area Projects includes construction of buildings for sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, the following steps are being taken to strengthen the primary health care institutions :

1. Major Civil Works for repair/construction of OT/Labour Room.

2. Provision of equipments/medicine for emergency, obstetrics at selected first referral units.

3. Financial assistance for contracts/appointments/hiring of Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists etc. wherever not available.

Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach of health care services through Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health Camps etc.